

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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47

ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-06 PA-02 MED-03 /030 W

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R 171608Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6814

UNCLAS MADRID 6307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, US, SP

SUBJECT: 1968 SPANISH CASE SIMILAR TO PHILADELPHIA LEGIONAIRES' DISEASE

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED TO PASS FOLLOWING LETTER TO RESEARCHERS STUDYING FATAL DISEASE AFFECTING PARTICIPANTS AT RECENT AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA. LETTER IS FROM DR. I. DURAN MARTINEZ, FACULTY OF MEDICINE, HOSPITAL CLINICO DE SAN CECILIO, GRANADA, SPAIN, AND SAYS DISEASE WITH SYMPTOMS SIMILAR TO PHILADELPHIA CASES WAS TRACED TO VIRUS FROM DEAD PIGEON.

QUOTE

IN 1968 GERIATRIC CENTER IN GRANADA HAD EPIDEMIC, WITH CHARACTERISTICS REMARKABLY LIKE ONE YOU ARE NOW EXPERIENCING.

OUTBREAK WAS SUDDEN WITH MAXIMUM INCIDENCE OF CASES IN FIRST 24-48 HOURS. WE NATURALLY INTERPRETED IT AS WATER CONTAMINATION, SINCE ONLY PATIENTS AFFECTED OCCUPIED BEDS ON THE SECOND FLOOR, NO ONE ELSE IN HOSPITAL BECAME AFFECTED, AND ON THIS SECOND FLOOR WHERE MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE PATIENTS CONTRACTED DISEASE AND MORTALITY WAS APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT, WATER WAS SUPPLIED FROM AN UNCOVERED TANK.

ALL CASES REFLECTED INITIAL TYPHOID, FOLLOWED BY SERIOUS PNEUMONIC CONDITION.

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WHEN DEAD PIGEON WAS FOUND IN THE WATER TANK WE SUSPECTED

POSSIBLE CONNECTION, BUT WERE UNAWARE OF POSSIBILITY THERE  
MIGHT BE WATER CONTAMINATION FROM AN ORNITHOLOGICAL VIRUS.  
PERTINENT RESEARCH WAS CONDUCTED AT MADRID INSTITUTE OF  
VIROLOGY AND PATHOGENIC ORNITHOLOGICAL VIRUS WAS ISOLATED.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WRITE TO:

DR. THOMAS SANCHEZ MARISCAL, D.M.  
JEFE PROVINCIAL DE SANIDAD DE GRANADA  
JEFATURA PROVINCIAL DE SANIDAD  
CARRETERA DE MALAGA  
GRANADA, SPAIN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, MEDICAL RESEARCH  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MADRID06307  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760315-1110  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760847/aaaaboln.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION HEW  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 1968 SPANISH CASE SIMILAR TO PHILADELPHIA LEGIONAIRES' DISEASE  
**TAGS:** TBIO, US, SP, (MARISCAL, THOMAS SANDEZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006